IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace the claims of record with the following full set of claims:

     1.   (Canceled).

     2.   (Currently amended) A method of controlling a plurality of transcoding channels, a transcoding channel allowing an input compressed data signal encoded at an input bit rate to be converted into an output compressed data signal encoded at an output bit rate wherein a regulation process uses quantization scales and the input compressed data signal to determine a video encoding complexity ~~obtain the output bit rate~~, said method ~~of controlling~~ comprising the steps of:

     ~~a step of~~ computing ~~an indicator~~ a weighting factor of a compressed data quality for the respective transcoding channels, ~~said indicator~~ the weighting factor being computed ~~from~~ for a current picture of the input compressed data signal as an average, over a set of preceding encoded pictures, of an average quantization scale over a preceding picture and a number of bits used to encode the same preceding picture; ~~independent of the regulation process~~,

     determining an indicator as function of the transcoding channel video complexity and associated weighting factor; and

     ~~a step of~~ allocating the output bit rate to the transcoding channel from a total output bit rate, its corresponding indicator and a sum of the indicators of the transcoding channels~~, wherein the indicator is computed from an average, over a set of encoded pictures, of a function of an average quantization scale over a picture and a number of bits used to encode the same picture~~.

     3.   (Currently amended) A method of controlling a set of transcoding channels as claimed in claim 2, wherein ~~the indicator is computed from~~ the average is a weighted average of a set of the averages calculated over the set of encoded pictures.

     4.   (Currently amended) A controller for controlling a set of transcoders, a transcoder allowing an input compressed data signal encoded at an input

bit rate to be converted into an output compressed data signal encoded at an output bit rate wherein a regulation process uses quantization scales and the input compressed data signal to determine a video encoding complexity ~~obtain the output bit rate~~, said controller comprising :

a processor configured to determine ~~an indicator~~ a weighting factor of a compressed data quality for the respective transcoders channel, ~~said indicator~~ the weighting factor being computed for a current picture from the input compressed data signal as an average, over a set of preceding encoded pictures, of an average quantization scale over a preceding picture and a number of bits used to encode the same preceding picture; ~~independent of the regulation process~~,

determining an indicator as function of the transcoding channel video complexity and associated weighting factor; and

allocate the output bit rate to the transcoder from a total output bit rate, its corresponding indicator and a sum of the indicators of the transcoders, ~~wherein the indicator is computed from an average, over a set of encoded pictures, of a function of an average quantization scale over a picture and a number of bits used to encode the same picture~~.

5.   (Currently amended) A data multiplexing system comprising :

a set of transcoders for converting input compressed data signals encoded at an input bit rate into output compressed data signals encoded at an output bit rate, wherein a regulation process uses quantization scales and the input compressed data signal to determine a video encoding complexity ~~obtain the output bit rate~~,

a controller for controlling the set of transcoders and comprising:

means for computing a weighting factor of a compressed data quality for the respective transcoders, ~~said indicator~~ the weighting factor being computed ~~from~~ for a current picture of the input compressed data signal as an average, over a set of encoded pictures, of an average quantization scale over a preceding picture and a number of bits used to encode the same preceding picture; ~~independent of the regulation process~~,

means for determining an indicator as function of the transcoding channel video complexity and associated weighting factor;

means for allocating the output bit rate to the transcoder from a total output bit rate, its corresponding indicator and a sum of the indicators of the transcoders, and

a multiplexer for providing a multiplexed data signal at the total output bit rate by multiplexing of the output compressed data signals, ~~wherein the indicator is computed from an average, over a set of encoded pictures, of a function of an average quantization scale over a picture and a number of bits used to encode the same picture~~.

6.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for a controller that comprises a set of instructions, which, when loaded into the controller, causes the controller to:

compute a video encoding complexity using quantization scales and an input compressed data signal;

compute a factor for a current picture of the input compressed data signal as an average, over a set of encoded pictures, of an average quantization scale over a picture and a number of bits used to encode the same picture,

<u>determine an indicator as a function of the transcoding channel video complexity and associated weighting factor; and</u>

<u>allocate an output bit rate to the transcoding channel from a total output bit rate, its corresponding indicator and a sum of the indicators of the transcoding channels.</u> ~~carry out the method of controlling as claimed in claims 2 to 3~~

7. (New)–The computer program product as recited in claim 6, wherein the average is a weighted average of a set of the averages calculated over the set of encoded pictures.